



COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WESTSUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year

1966

DR. E. KINNEAR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

J.D. HACKFORD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Municipal Offices,
Belle Vue,
Sudbury,
Suffolk.

Sudbury 2855 or 2331 during
office hours and 2664 after
office hours.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cosford Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public
Health Services, for the year 1966.

The health of the district appears to be satisfactory, but there was an increase in the number of infant deaths during the year. It will be seen from the report that 5 of these deaths were from prematurity, and occurred on the first day, or within the first week of life. Even so, it represents a great amount of unhappiness for parents and those around them and I look forward to the time when such deaths from neonatal asphyxia associated with prematurity may be prevented.

The sanitary circumstances of the district continue to improve as the sewerage systems become available. In my opinion, the Council's policy of encouraging and in some cases, requiring connections to the sewer, where this is practicable is justified and a number of houses have been improved, where village schemes have come into use.

The Council has given a lead by its improvements to older Council houses.

The development of small housing estates which may introduce problems of sewage disposal also give rise to problems of refuse disposal, under a fortnightly collection service. Owners of these houses which have small gardens and often no solid fuel fires or boilers, cannot dispose of excess refuse by the customary methods of burning or burying. The Council has commenced a weekly service in the largest villages and the extension to every part of our district where it is practicable, of a weekly back-door refuse collection is an important improvement in the Public Health Services which requires to be implemented.

Fortunately the Council has the intention to change from crude tipping and crude incineration, which is unacceptable, to controlled tipping - although this greatly increases the cost in machinery and manpower required.

Refuse is increasingly bulky, tip cover difficult to provide in adequate amounts, and pits fill up very quickly indeed. In addition, Industry is competing directly with authorities for suitable pits. Therefore, although Councils may provide for the future, by acquisition, or options on, suitable pits in their districts, the availability of such pits is limited and in years to come Consortia of District Authorities must resort to controlled incineration, composting or transporting of refuse in bulk to other areas, for land reclamation.

Your obedient servant,

E. KINNEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY DURING 1966

(a) Medical - Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

This officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments:

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Sudbury.
Hadleigh U.D.C.
Melford R.D.C.
Thedwastre R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer)
School Medical Officer) West Suffolk County Council.

(b) Other Public Health Officers.

J.D. Hackford, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,
Incorporated Public Health Engineer, Surveyor and
Senior Public Health Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector & Assistant Surveyor,
D.P. Carpenter, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Additional Public Health Inspector,
N.A. Shutes, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor E.J. Hart - Chairman.

Councillor J.E.W. Ladbroke - Vice Chairman.

Councillors.

Mrs. C.N. McGeorge.	T.C. Clark.
Miss E.I. Derbyshire,	T.C. Dawson.
Miss G.R. Steed.	B.F. English.
Col. K.A. Crockatt.	F.H. Hodgkinson.
Col. B.J. Haworth.	F.G.W. Letts.
Lt. Col. G.F. St. C. Stockwell.	A.G.P. Powell.
H. Boyle.	L.E.A. Spraggins.
G.R. Armitage.	

Mr. H. Boyle - Chairman of the Council.

Mr. G.R. Armitage - Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Mr. C.A. Durrant - Clerk of the Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area. 48,530 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of the 1966 1965 1964 1963 1962 1961
resident population. 9,120 9,140 9,140 9,110 9,060 9,050

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year. (Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	134 (124)	70 (65)	64 (59)
Illegitimate.	7 (8)	3 (3)	4 (5)
Total.	141 (132)	73 (68)	68 (64)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) 15.46 (14.4)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (adjusted) 18.0 (16.8)
Comparability factor. 1.17
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) 17.7 (18.0)

Stillbirths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	1 (3)	1 (2)	- (1)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total.	1 (3)	1 (2)	- (1)

Total Live and Stillbirths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	135 (127)	71 (67)	64 (60)
Illegitimate.	7 (8)	3 (3)	4 (5)
Total.	142 (135)	74 (70)	68 (65)

Infant Mortality.

Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	7 (-)	1 (-)	6 (-)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Total.	7 (-)	1 (-)	6 (-)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births 49.6 (Nil)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births
(England & Wales) 19.0 (19.0)

Illegitimate birth rate (per cent of total live births) 4.9% (5.9%)

Maternal deaths (including abortions) Nil (Nil)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths. Nil (Nil)

Deaths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	112 (125)	61 (59)	51 (66)
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	12.28	13.6	
Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	10.0	11.0	
Comparability Factor.	0.82	0.81	
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	11.7	11.5	

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Birth rate (adjusted)	14.6	15.8	18.2	18.2	16.8	18.0
Death rate (adjusted)	10.4	10.0	11.1	12.6	11.0	10.0
Infant Mortality rate.	Nil	7.9	7.0	13.9	Nil	49.6
Number of infant deaths.	Nil	1	1	2	Nil	7

The Following table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring during 1966. The grand totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
ALL CAUSES.	112 (125)	61 (59)	51 (66)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic Disease.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal Infections.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2 (4)	1 (1)	1 (3)
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4 (3)	2 (3)	2 (-)
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	1 (2)		1 (2)
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	10 (18)	7 (8)	3 (10)
15. Leukaemia aleukaemia.	1 (-)	1 (-)	- (-)
16. Diabetes.	2 (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	23 (25)	10 (10)	13 (15)
18. Coronary disease, angina.	25 (14)	16 (10)	9 (4)
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1 (2)	+ (1)	1 (1)
20. Other heart disease.	8 (21)	2 (8)	6 (13)
21. Other Circulatory disease.	3 (5)	2 (2)	1 (3)
22. Influenza.	- (2)	- (1)	+ (1)
23. Pneumonia.	3 (6)	3 (3)	- (3)
24. Bronchitis.	3 (1)	- (1)	3 (-)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	4 (1)	2 (-)	2 (1)
26. Ulcer of stomach & Duodenum.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
27. Gastritis, enteritis & Diarrhoea.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis.	1 (2)	1 (-)	- (2)
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1 (2)	1 (2)	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	- (-)		- (-)
31. Congenital malformations.	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	12 (9)	6 (6)	6 (3)
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	2 (1)	2 (-)	- (1)
34. All other accidents.	3 (3)	3 (1)	- (2)
35. Suicide.	1 (1)	1 (-)	- (1)
36. Homicide & operations of war.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Infectious Diseases.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
- (2)	- (2)	- (-) 0% (1.6%)

Neoplasms, all types.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
19. (27)	11 (12)	8 (15) 16.9% (21.6%)

Vascular diseases including strokes.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
60 (67)	30 (31)	30 (36) 53.5% (53.6%)

Respiratory diseases (excluding lung cancer.)

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
10 (10)	5 (5)	5 (5) 9.0% (8.0%)

Accidents and Violence.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
6 (5)	6 (1)	- (4) 5.3% (4.0%)

Age Distribution of Deaths.

	Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Male.	1	-	1	1	1	-	5	7	17	28
Female.	6	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	5	28
Total.	7	-	1	1	1	1	10	13	22	56

The distribution of certain deaths by age groups.

Age groups.

		45 -	55 -	65 -	75 -
Cancer of uterus.					1
Cancer of lung	M		1	1	
	F		2		
Coronary Heart disease	M	3	1	6	6
	F	1	1	1	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system (Strokes)	M		1	1	8
	F	1	1	1	10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, under the directorship of Dr. P.K. Fraser, provides help and advice, always willingly given, on matters concerning bacteriology and epidemiology and the supply of vaccines and sera in special cases.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

These services since July, 1953, have been provided directly by The County Council, under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse-Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) Child Welfare Clinics

The West Suffolk County Council holds child welfare clinics at the following centres in Cosford:-

Bildeston - Chapel School Room 1st Wednesday in
each month.

Lavenham - Guildhall 2nd Tuesday in
each month.

(e) National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No proceedings were taken under this Section during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	6 (12)	3 (6)	3 (6)
Measles.	46 (152)	21 (88)	25 (64)
Erysipelas.	- (2)	- (1)	- (1)
Whooping Cough.	- (14)	- (7)	- (7)
Pneumonia (acute primary)	3 (8)	3 (2)	- (6)
Food Poisoning.	4 (3)	3 (1)	1 (2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	59 (191)	30 (105)	29 (86)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Pulmonary	1	2	2	0	3	4	1
Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Mortality.

During 1966 there were no deaths from tuberculosis.

The Statistics indicate:

1. There was a decrease in the population of 20 persons.
The excess of births over deaths was 39.
2. The birth rate increased to 18.0 per 1,000, 9 more babies were born.
3. Seven illegitimate births occurred compared with eight, the previous year.
4. The death rate was again very low, half the deaths were at the age of 75 years or over.
5. There were seven infant deaths, which is the largest number since 1955, when there were eight infant deaths.
6. The causes of the infant deaths were as follows:-

<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause of death.</u>
F	7 hours.	Prematurity (asphyxia)
F	1 day)	"
F	1 day)	"
) Twins.	craniabifida.
F	3 days.	" asphyxia.
F	1 week.	" (resp. failure)
M	under 4 weeks.	Untraced in my records.
F.	1 month.	Bronchopneumonia. (Mongol)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1911

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1911

C O S F O R D R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

SURVEYOR and SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1966

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Area (acres)	48,530
Population - 1961 Census	9,050
Estimated June, 1966.	9,120
Number of inhabited houses	3,622
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1966	£206,802
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£785

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S T A F F

J. D. Hackford, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Incorporated Public Health Engineer,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

D. P. Carpenter, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Assistant Surveyor, and Public Health
Inspector.

N. A. Shutes, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

E. A. Green,
Resident Engineer.

J. A. Andrews,
Housing Manager.

A. Hamlin,
Clerk of Works.

Miss Jacqueline Kersey,
General Clerk.

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The Cosford Rural District is entirely agricultural in character with arable farming predominating, and with no heavy industries or extensive factory development. Some light industries are established in the larger villages and these, together with farming and building work, provide employment within the District, but a large proportion of the working population commutes to the neighbouring towns of Sudbury, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Colchester.

The picturesque villages of the District, including especially Lavenham and Kersey, attract large numbers of holiday visitors in the summer months. These villages, the medieval characters of which are largely unspoiled by 20th century progress, are the subject of great interest by Preservation Societies and Planning Authority alike, who combine to ensure that any new development is strictly controlled to blend with the existing. A notable achievement, probably unique, is the removal in Lavenham of the mess of overhead telephone and electricity wires which seriously detracted from its appearance; these are now undergrounded. The improvement in the village is startling, and all concerned on the project deserve the highest commendation. Perhaps the success of this operation will encourage similar action at other villages in the near future.

Provision of main sewerage has resulted in the largest step forward in sanitation for centuries in several of the smaller villages. Here the policy of abolition of pail closets and privies and the substitution of waterclosets has been vigorously pursued by the Department and every possible inducement and encouragement has been made to get owners to provide bathrooms as well, usually with the aid of grant. The Council has also adopted the policy of surveying those villages in which main sewerage is provided with a view to the declaration of Improvement Areas and already two such Areas have been surveyed and preliminary Improvement Notices served in the case of one Area.

The proposed expansion of Ipswich still gives rise to intense local interest. Although the Cosford Rural District will not be directly affected by the schemes at present under consideration, representation has been made expressing the Council's concern over the use for housing development of large areas of valuable arable land.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

The whole of the Rural District is served by a public water supply operated by the West Suffolk Water Board, Linden House, Kings Road, Bury St. Edmunds. (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds 2261).

The supply serving the Cosford Rural District is derived from boreholes 400 feet deep in the chalk substrata at Semer where the fully automatic all electric pumping plant is capable of providing a supply of 700,000 gallons of water per day. All water is chlorinated at the pumping station to give a chlorine residual of 0.15 parts per million after which it is pumped to the Nedging Tye water tower from whence it is piped into the distribution mains.

A sample of water taken from the supply at the source before chlorination and submitted for chemical analysis was reported as follows:-

"The organic quality of this water is very good and the chemical analysis shows no signs of pollution. The water is hard, the total hardness being about 26° Clark, all but 5° of which is Temporary. (295 parts per million temporary hardness; 70 parts per million permanent hardness). The free carbonic acid content is low relatively to the hardness of the water which would not be expected to have any corrosive action on metals. The water contains a trace of iron, but this is wholly in solution when the sample was received and no deposit formed on standing. In our opinion this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

The fluoride content is higher than the average for waters in the area and is not far removed from the figure of 1 part per million that is regarded as the optimum from the point of view of dental hygiene".

The following table shows the number of properties connected to the mains in each parish.

Parish	Total no. of houses	Houses connected to mains	Dependent of Public Standpipe	On Route but not connected	Not on Route of Mains.
Aldham	53	50	-	-	3
Bildeston	284	281	-	2	1
Boxford	287	273	4	-	10
Brent Eleigh	58	48	-	2	8
Brettenham	101	100	-	-	1
Chelsworth	54	50	-	2	2
Cockfield	270	248	-	12	10
Edwardstone	121	111	1	-	9
Elmscott	145	123	1	11	10
Groton	77	65	-	3	9
Hitcham	222	191	18	1	12
Kersey	154	148	-	-	6
Kettlebaston	26	25	-	-	1
Lavenham	612	597	8	1	6
Layham	185	160	-	7	18
Lindsey	61	51	4	2	4
Milden	48	48	-	-	-
Monks Eleigh	161	148	-	3	10
Nedging-with-Naughton	110	103	6	-	1
Polstead	230	201	2	6	21
Preston St. Mary	73	62	-	-	11
Semer	59	47	-	4	8
Thorpe Morieux	94	93	-	1	-
Wattisham	44	44	-	-	-
Whatfield	93	87	3	-	3
Total:	3,622	92.6%	1.3%	1.6%	4.5%

SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE

Six of the larger villages in the District are now provided with public sewers and a start was made in September 1966, on an extension to the Boxford sewer which will embrace the villages of Groton and Edwardstone and the hamlets of White Street Green and Calais Street. Hand-in-hand with the sewer extensions goes the enlargement and modernisation of the existing sewage disposal works which are at present overloaded and from which an effluent to Royal Commission standard is the exception rather than the rule.

The proposals for public sewers at Hitcham, Chelsworth and Elmsett, details of which are being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers Messrs Lemon and Blizzard, have been held up pending the completion of negotiations for sites for pumping stations and disposal works.

Instructions have also been given to the Consulting Engineers to prepare, a scheme for the extension of the Boxford sewer to include the hamlets of Polstead Heath and Hadleigh Heath and a further scheme for the enlargement of the Lavenham sewage disposal works.

Preparation of the sewerage scheme for the village of Whatfield, which is being undertaken by this Department is at the stage where an application may be made to the Ministry for loan sanction. Minor maintenance work to improve sewage works has been carried out by the Department's works staff at Lavenham, Kersey and Bildeston, and credit must be given to our maintenance staff of only three men for their efficient servicing of the sewage disposal works.

The Council's housing estates are served by small sewage disposal works some of which are undergoing enlargement as improvement work on Council houses progresses. These disposal works are maintained in servicable condition by a team of two men.

The extended-aeration sewage treatment unit installed at Cockfield continues to give satisfactory effluent after treatment on sand filters, but maintenance costs are high. A further extended aeration unit has been installed by an estate Developer at Elmsett and will be taken over by the Council for future maintenance when put into operation. In this case, "polishing" of the effluent will be effected by means of an upward flow clarifier installed to the design and specification of this Department.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection service covers the whole of the Rural District. Refuse is removed weekly from the three larger villages and at fortnightly intervals in the remaining 22 parishes. A kerbside system of collection is worked whereby householders are required to put dustbins at the kerb for collection except in the case of persons who are aged or infirm when arrangements are made for the dustbin to be collected from the rear of the premises.

The service is operated by one 35 cu. yd., "Dennis " Paxit III A., refuse collection vehicle with a crew of three men. This vehicle came into use in March 1966, and has proved entirely satisfactory. The old S. & D. fore-and-aft tipping refuse collector is held in reserve in case of breakdown, for special collections and for general use.

The Council has considered the possibility of introducing improvements to the service, including a weekly collection, but has deferred the matter for the time being having regard to the current economic climate.

The difficulty of finding the site for a refuse tip at short notice was brought into prominence early in the year when the owner of the tip which has been in use for more than 20 years gave the Council one week's notice to quit. Suitable sites, reasonably remote from dwellings, and at which the owner is prepared to permit tipping of house refuse, are extremely difficult to find even in a rural area such as this. Eventually, a disused chalk pit was found near Bildeston and with the owner's consent was put into use as a refuse tip but its life will be short - probably not more than 18 months will see this pit filled.

Negotiations are actively in hand with British Railways for the purchase of a section of disused railway line including a deep cutting, near Lavenham, with a view to the use of this for refuse disposal in the future.

Pail Closet and Cesspool Emptying

A weekly pail-closet emptying service operates in those parts of the District not served by a public sewer. The service is carried out under contract by Messrs Tovey Transport Ltd., of Cambridge. It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of pails emptied weekly has gone down by 250 over the past 3 years, and I hope to be able to report a further substantial decrease soon after the Boxford sewer extension comes into use.

The Council also operates a cesspool emptying service utilising a 750 gallon, capacity "Dennis" cesspool emptier manned by two men. One "free" emptying per house per annum is allowed, thereafter the service is charged for at the rate of 35/- per load.

During 1966, 1,060 loads were removed from 809 cesspools. In addition to this, the cesspool emptier is employed on desludging of settlement and humus tanks at housing site sewage works in the District and on similar work on hire to the Hadleigh U.D.C.

After nearly nine years of comparatively trouble-free service, a major works overhaul became necessary to the cesspool emptying machine, and this work was carried out during the latter part of the year.

Disposal of cesspool contents is by spreading on agricultural land, but sites suitable for all-the-year round use are scarce, and the number of farmers who are prepared to accept this material on their land gets fewer. In consequence, the Council has given instruction to their Consulting Engineers that when the works are enlarged to cater for the villages of Hitcham and Chelsworth, the new sewage disposal works at Bildeston shall also make provision for the reception and treatment of cesspool contents. Considerable discussion has taken place between the Consulting Engineers and the Department over the method to adopt to best achieve this objective.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

The Gosford Rural District Council has limited delegated powers only and the West Suffolk County Council, Manor House, Bury St. Edmunds, (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds, 2281) is the Local Planning Authority under the Act. All applications for development within the Rural District are considered by the Council's Planning Committee whose recommendation is taken into account by the County Planning Department. Contraversial applications are referred to the Sudbury Area Planning Committee which meets monthly. During 1966, 321 applications were made for Planning consent, of these 259 were recommended for approval and 71 for refusal.

The coming into operation on 1st February, 1966 of the Building Regulations has placed even greater strain on the Department both with regard to the scrutiny of plans submitted and the inspection of work in progress. Every endeavour is made to ensure that the statutory inspections at least are made. The number of applications too, continues to rise, and shows again a new "high" over any previous year. Figures do not give a true picture of the work involved and the issue of a consent under Building Regulations may have involved several lengthy discussions or letters to the applicant and amendment to the original submission to accord with requirements. It is to be hoped that, as builders and Architects become more familiar with the new standards set by the Building Regulations, less of the Department's time will be wasted in discussions and amendment to submissions. During the year 278 applications were received for consent under Building Regulations; 240 were approved and 38 rejected.

Ten applications for relaxation of the requirements of the Regulations were received; nine were approved by the Council, and one was refused.

HOUSING

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS Etc.,

Standard Grants

Standard Grants remain in steady demand and forty four applications were received during the year which were dealt with as follows:-

Applications				Dwellings Improved	
Owner/ Occupiers.	Tenanted Houses	Approved	Refused	Owner/ Occupiers	Tenanted Houses
29	15	43	1	24	11

Total amount paid in Standard Grants £5,448 10s. 3d.

Average grant per house improved £155 13s. 5d.

Amenities provided	(a)	Fixed bath	32
	(b)	Shower	Nil
	(c)	Wash hand basin	32
	(d)	Hot water supply	35
	(e)	Water closet	32
	(f)	Foodstore	21

It is interesting to note that a bath is still the general choice rather than a shower. Comment is also justified, I feel, on the continued insistence of a ventilated foodstore being provided as condition of standard grant; in some of the smaller houses provision of a foodstore takes up valuable floor space - often at the expense of other and perhaps more desirable, facilities - and it is surely time that this condition was revised to permit the installation of a domestic refrigerator instead. Cases have occurred, where a foodstore is provided in order to comply with the grant conditions, that tenants have stated frankly it will be used only as a broom cupboard and that perishable food is stored in a refrigerator.

Discretionary Grants

Total number of applications received 12

Approved 10

Refused 2

Number of dwellings improved: Owner/Occupied 5

Tenanted 3

Total amount paid in Discretionary Grants £3,090

Average grant per house £386

Council house Improvements

The Cosford Rural District Council has been actively engaged with the pressing need for the provision of modern amenities to those Council houses which were built prior to 1939 and lacked bathroom, hot water supply and indoor toilet facilities. At the time this work was initially put in hand in 1955, a total of 234 houses were awaiting improvement to modern standards.

By December 1966, improvements have been carried out to 186 of these dwellings and a further thirteen are now in course of preparation.

Of the remaining 35 houses, only 15 are left which lack baths or water closets and all of these are without adequate drainage. In every case, however, they will be on the line of sewers, schemes for which are in course of preparation, and it is policy to defer improvements until sewerage is available.

This is a record to be proud of, more so when it is realised that the preparation of the drawings, specifications etc., for all these improvement schemes have been carried out by the Department without recourse to the employment of additional staff.

Improvement Areas

Inspection of dwellings in the three larger villages Bideston, Boxford and Lavenham, has commenced with a view to the formal declaration of Improvement Areas under the Housing Act, 1964. The areas at Lavenham, which together embrace the whole of the village served by the public sewer, have been surveyed and Preliminary Notices have been served in respect of the Lavenham No: 1 Improvement Area. In general, the owners of property in the Area have shown a desire to co-operate with the Council and I anticipate that enforcement action will be required on very few of the tenanted houses which at present lack the required amenities. The formal procedure is, however, cumbersome and long-drawn-out and much of the Inspector's time is taken up with discussions and interviews with owners, tenants and builders.

The following table shows the distribution of houses in the District and the proportion of Council owned houses.

	Total houses in Parish	Number of Council Houses	Post-war Council Houses			Houses acquired by Council and improved	Pre-war and emergency war houses	% of houses in Parish which are Council Houses
			Total	Built in 1966	Built in 1946-65			
Aldham	53	6	-	-	-	-	6	11%
Bildeston	284	120	97	-	97	-	23	42%
Boxford	287	63	44	-	44	-	19	22%
Brent Eleigh	58	17	6	-	6	-	11	29%
Brettenham	101	8	6	-	6	-	2	8%
Chelsworth	54	2	-	-	-	-	2	4%
Cockfield	270	60	40	-	40	-	20	22%
Edwardstone	121	24	12	-	12	-	12	20%
Elmscott	145	32	22	-	22	-	10	22%
Groton	77	12	-	-	-	-	12	16%
Hitcham	222	31	21	-	21	-	10	14%
Kersey	154	25	22	-	22	-	3	16%
Kettlebaston	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lavenham	612	181	147	28	119	4	30	30%
Layham	185	16	16	-	16	-	-	9%
Lindsey	61	6	2	-	2	-	4	10%
Milden	48	6	4	-	4	-	2	12%
Monks Eleigh	161	22	16	-	16	-	6	13%
Nedging-with-Naughton	110	24	10	-	10	-	14	22%
Polstead	230	42	32	-	32	-	10	18%
Preston St. Mary	73	6	4	-	4	-	2	8%
Samor	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Morieux	94	14	8	-	8	-	6	15%
Wattisham	44	2	-	-	-	-	2	5%
Whitfield	93	43	24	-	24	-	19	46%
Total:	3,622	762	533	28	505	4	225	21%

Private houses built post-war:-

1946-1965	1966	Total
304	85	389

Private Houses under construction at 31st December, 1966 - 82

Council Houses under construction at 31st December, 1966 - 46

H O U S I N G a n d P U B L I C H E A L T H

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 12 and 39
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Notices were served requiring repairs - Nil

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered
fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners - Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default
of owners. - Nil

Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 19, 21 and 23
of the Housing Act, 1957

Notices of "Time and Place" outstanding from
year 1965 - 2

Notices of "Time and Place" served - 26 + 1 Informal.

Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition
Orders were made - 3 + 1 Informal.

Dwelling houses in respect of which Closing
Orders were made - 12

Dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings
were accepted. - 2

Notices of Time and Place outstanding - 11

Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition
Orders - 1 + 1 Informal.

L. A. Houses demolished in pursuance of M.O.H.
Certificate of Unfitness - 9

Houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders or
Undertaking - 2

Number of families displaced as a result of housing
action - 15

Number of persons included in these families - 25

Proceedings under Sections 18, 19 and 27
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of parts of dwelling houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were made - Nil

Number of parts of dwelling houses closed in
pursuance of Closing Orders - Nil

Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of
the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of houses demolished in Clearance
Areas. - Nil

Houses subject to Demolition Orders, Closing
Orders and Undertaking Not to Relet subsequently
made fit to the satisfaction of the Council:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were revoked - Nil

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Undertakings were cancelled after being made
fit for habitation - 4

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were removed after being made
fit for habitation. - 3

Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936

Statutory Notices	outstanding 1st January, 1966	- 78
"	" served during 1966	- 20
"	" complied with during 1966	- 63
"	" outstanding 31st December, 1966	- 35

SWIMMING BATHS

No public swimming bath is provided within the Gosford Rural or Hadleigh Urban Districts although plans are afoot and monies are being collected for a swimming bath at Hadleigh. An open air swimming pool (unheated) is available at Sudbury and heated indoor pools at Ipswich. Monks Eleigh Primary School is provided with an open air "Furley" pool, and a larger heated, covered pool is provided at the Boxford Primary School; these are used solely for educational purposes. In both cases the water is circulated, filtered and chlorinated. Samples are taken from time-to-time to ensure bacterial purity were all reported "Satisfactory".

SCHOOLS

There are ten village schools in the District and all are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The schools at Bildeston, Boxford, Lavenham, Kersey and Monks Eleigh, have water-closets connected to the public sewers. The schools at Cockfield and Polstead have water-closets connected to cesspools. The remaining schools at Elmsett, Hitcham and Whatfield still have ELSAN closets. These cannot be considered satisfactory closet accommodation for Schools, but as I have already reported, schemes for the provision of sewerage to these villages are in hand and the School Authorities have indicated that as soon as the sewer is available, improvements will be put in hand.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTION

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the District is "Sterilised" "Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)". Two milk distributors operate from premises at Boxford, and Hitchan, but no loose milk is handled.

Ice Cream

No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

35 premises are registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Mobile vans operate in the District but are based outside it. These are inspected from time to time but, in general, give little cause for complaint.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

No slaughtering is now carried out at any premises in the District and local butchers obtain their supplies from meat wholesalers.

The food premises in the District are listed as follows:-

Hotels and licensed premises	- 40
Restaurants	- 2
Grocers	- 31
Confectioners	- 7
Butchers	- 5
Fishmongers	- 1
Dairies	- 2
Greengrocers	- 5
Bakers	- 2
Fried fish shops	- 1

The following premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16, of the Food and Drugs Act:-

Manufacture of sausages, potted pressed, pickled or preserved food	- 9
Manufacture of ice cream	- Nil
Sale of ice cream	- 35

Regular routine visits are carried out to food premises and various minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been remedied after discussion with the occupiers. No legal proceedings were instituted.

RODENT CONTROL

One part-time Rodent Operator is employed to carry out all treatment at private, business and agricultural premises, and at sewage works, tips and other Council-owned properties, as directed. Treatment at domestic premises is carried out free of charge; business and agricultural treatments are carried out on a "Time and materials" charge. The same Operator also carried out treatments within the Hadleigh Urban District on a rechargeable basis. No treatments are carried out under Contract. "Warfarin" rat poison is used exclusively in order to ensure maximum safeguard against accidents caused by ingestion by animals other than rats. All properties at which infestations were found were treated, each treatment involving several visits until no evidence of infestation was apparent. From January 1967, the Rodent Operator will be employed full-time on Rodent Control and systematic survey of the District for rats will then be possible.

The work carried out by the Rodent Operator during the year is indicated in the following table:-

	Type of Property	
	Domestic	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in District	3,497	580
2. (a) No. of properties inspected following notification	198	13
(b) No. of above infested by		
(i) Rats	186	13
(ii) Mice	23	3
3. (a) No. of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	42	9
(b) No. infested by		
(i) Rats	6	3
(ii) Mice	-	-

CARAVAN SITES and MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The following licenses under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1961, were in force. Several visits were made to each site during the year and minor defects remedied.

Individual caravans	-	26
2 caravans	-	3
3 caravans	-	1
6 caravans	-	1
20 caravans	-	1
24 caravans	-	1

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	2	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	31	12	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals:	35	14	Nil	Nil

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered	Number of Registered Premises Inspected.
Offices	3	1
Retail Shops	16	9
Wholesale shops	1	1
Catering establishments	1	1
Fuel storage depots	-	-
Totals:	21	12

November, 1967.

